

Message Text

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43

ACTION COA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

DLOS-06 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 DRC-01 IO-15 CIAE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 ACDA-19 /144 W
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O R 021759Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4432

INFO SECDEF

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

CINCLANT

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMICEDEFOR

UNCLAS LONDON 11340

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IC, UK

SUBJECT: ICELANDIC FISHERIES DISPUTE

REF: REYKJAVIK 1163

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRIME MINISTER HEATH'S MESSAGE OF OCTOBER 2 TO PRIME MINISTER JOHANNESSEN. IT WAS RELEASED IN LONDON AT 1230 LOCAL TIME.
2. BEGIN TEXT: "THANK YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGE OF 28 SEPTEMBER. AS I AM SURE YOU WILL REALIZE, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S INTERPRETATION OF PAST EVENTS DOES NOT WHOLLY CORRESPOND WITH YOUR OWN. BUT I AM ENCOURAGED THAT WE AGREE ON THE GREAT IMPORTANCE OF FINDING A WAY OF BREAKING OUT OF THE PRESENT IMPASSE.

"IN AN EFFORT TO DO SO, MY COLLEAGUES AND I HAVE DECIDED THAT THE ROYAL NAVY AND THE DEFENSE TUGS WILL BE WITHDRAWN FROM THE DISPUTED AREA AT 1500 GMT ON 3
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OCTOBER. THE WITHDRAWAL WILL BE MADE ON THE ASSUMPTION

THAT THE ICELANDIC AUTHORITIES WILL NOT TAKE ANY MEASURES AGAINST BRITISH TRAWLERS FISHING, OR WHICH HAVE FISHED, IN THE DISPUTED AREA. THE NAVY AND THE TUGS WILL RETURN IF THIS ASSUMPTION PROVES TO BE WRONG.

"AN IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE IN MAKING THE WITHDRAWAL IS TO ESTABLISH CONDITIONS WHICH WILL ENABLE YOU TO COME TO LONDON FOR TALKS WITH ME, WHICH SHOULD, I SGEST, BE DIRECTED TOWARDS ACHIEVING A "MODUS VIVENDI" OF THE TYPE WHICH I OUTLINED IN MY EARLIER MESSAGE. MEANWHILE I TRUST THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT WILL WISH TO MAINTAIN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

"I THEREFORE EXTEND A CORDIAL INVITATION TO YOU TO COME TO THE UNITED KINGDOM. I BELIEVE THAT THE SOONER WE MET THE BETTER. IN THE LIGHT OF MY OTHER ENGAGEMENTS (THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY CONFERENCE IS BEING HELD NEXT WEEK) I COULD FOR MY PART MANAGE A PERIOD BETWEEN 15 AND 19 OCTOBER. IF THIS IS NOT CONVENIENT TO YOU I WOULD DO MY BEST TO FALL IN WITH ANY ALTERNATIVE WHICH YOU YOURSELF MAY LIKE TO SUGGEST." END TEXT.

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Message Attributes

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